UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1996/13
1 March 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fortieth session
11-22 March 1996
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: REVIEW OF MAINSTREAMING IN ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

At its thirty-ninth session, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on the human rights of women for the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis and to inform both the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women at their annual sessions, beginning in 1995, of these plans to facilitate the mainstreaming of the human rights of women, in the context of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights. The joint work plan contained in the present report seeks to identify areas in which the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women can jointly promote mainstreaming of women's human rights in the human rights regime, in terms of development of norms and standards, monitoring of and reporting on human rights, advisory services and institutions and human rights education, as well as special themes. It contains a joint work plan for 1996.

* E/CN.6/1996/1.

96-05179 (E) 050396 080396

/...

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	3
I. DEVELOPMENT OF NORMS AND STANDARDS	4 - 6	3
II. MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS	7 - 9	4
III. ADVISORY SERVICES, TRAINING AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION	10 - 13	5

INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 39/5, 1/ the Commission on the Status of Women stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights to ensure that the United Nations human rights mechanisms addressed on a regular basis violations of the human rights of women and that the Commission on the Status of Women regularly took stock of that integration process while carrying out its central role of monitoring activities relating to the status of women. In the same resolution it requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on the human rights of women for the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis and to inform both the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women at their annual sessions, beginning in 1995, of these plans to facilitate the mainstreaming of the human rights of women, in the context of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights. 2/

2. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 3/ also called for improved cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights (para. 231(g)) as an element in mainstreaming the human rights of women.

3. The following joint work plan has been developed for 1996. As a general practice, information will continue to be exchanged systematically, and during 1996 the Division will make an effort to make its database on women's human rights more easily accessible to the Centre. The Division will also make an effort to provide briefing material for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in preparation for his visits to individual countries.

I. DEVELOPMENT OF NORMS AND STANDARDS

4. In order to facilitate the integration of gender concerns in the development of international human rights norms and standards, the Division for the Advancement of Women will consult with the Centre for Human Rights with a view to preparing inputs that can be taken into account in studies being prepared by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights. It will provide the Centre for Human Rights with inputs from a gender perspective for possible inclusion in the work related to the development of the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the draft Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the draft optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child that are currently under preparation.

5. The Centre for Human Rights will contribute to studies that might be prepared as part of the process of elaborating a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It

will participate in the expert group meeting on violence against women migrant workers, to be organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women in May 1996, subject to the availability of funds.

6. The Centre and the Division will develop joint strategies for universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the year 2000 in the context of the goal of universal ratification of all United Nations human rights treaties.

II. MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS

7. The Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women will continue the systematic exchange of information in connection with the work of each human rights mechanism for which they provide substantive services. Specifically, the Division for the Advancement of Women will continue and expand the provision to the Centre of analyses from a gender perspective of reports of States parties that are being considered by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It will endeavour to begin to provide such analyses to the Committee on the Rights of the Child during 1996. The Centre for Human Rights will provide, for use by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, material relating to States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that are to submit reports in 1997 and the reports of special rapporteurs that are relevant to the work of the Committee. The Division will supply information on the Committee to the Centre for inclusion in compendia on the work of United Nations human rights treaty bodies. The Centre will continue providing inputs to various reports of the Secretary-General for the Commission on the Status of Women and the General Assembly regarding the human rights of women, as well as reports to be prepared on the critical areas of concern in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

8. The Division will also provide gender-specific input to the work of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the elaboration of general comments on specific articles or issues of the two Covenants. The Division will prepare a brief for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the status of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women with regard to the elaboration of a draft optional protocol under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as a contribution to the efforts of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in that regard for the Committee's session in May 1996.

9. The Division for the Advancement of Women will provide statistics and other information drawn from reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as from national reports prepared in the context of the Fourth World Conference on Women and its follow-up for use by other human rights mechanisms, including country and thematic rapporteurs. These will constitute briefing material on gender-related issues as input to missions conducted by country or thematic rapporteurs.

III. ADVISORY SERVICES, TRAINING AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

10. The Division for the Advancement of Women will provide input to the assessment of needs of specific countries requesting advisory services, with a view to the integration of orientations from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women contained in the Committee's reporting guidelines and general recommendations. Depending on the availability of funds, staff could be made available to participate in missions or possible consultants suggested. The Division will also provide information on the participation of women in democratic processes with a view to identifying relevant advisory service projects that could be executed by the Centre for Human Rights itself or in conjunction with other entities.

11. The Centre and the Division will begin the development of a training manual on human rights monitoring that includes gender dimensions, as well as a manual on human rights standards and procedures for humanitarian, peace-keeping and civilian mission personnel. They will also begin the elaboration of guidelines on gender aspects of human rights for use by United Nations staff. The Division, together with other United Nations entities, will cooperate in the update of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting 4/ being prepared by the Centre in conjunction with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Office at Turin, Italy.

12. The Division for the Advancement of Women will work with the Centre for Human Rights to develop material on women's human rights for inclusion in activities related to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

13. The Centre and the Division will study ways and means of mobilizing extrabudgetary resources which would permit the organization of specific training courses and seminars to sensitize women on their human rights, particularly in the least developed countries.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 6 (E/1995/26), chap. I, sect. C.

2/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

3/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

4/ United Nations publication E.91.XIV.1.